ground-floor." If the same thing be intended, why the difference in the expression? and, if they do not mean the same thing, why the similarity?

Are these things done from sheer love of mischief to puzzle surveyors and builders, and to induce litigation? or is it upon the "no connection with any other shop" principle that every Act of Parliament is made to employ terms, and to use language differently from every other? Lord Shaftesbury and the Speaker should see to this, and refer all bills presented to their respective houses to properly qualified persons, or a public officer should be appointed to revise all bills with reference to such matters, to insure consistency in the use of language, and most especially of technical language in all Acts of Parliament of which the subjects are cognate.

A Surveyor of Metropolitan Buildings.

London, Oct. 31, 1848.

THE PRESERVATION OF OUR ARCHITECTURAL ANTIQUITIES.

Mr. Charles Roach Smith has just now completed the first volume of his "*Collectanea Antiqua*, Etchings of Ancient Remains, illustrative of the Habits, Customs, and History of past Ages."* It presents in an unpretending form, an interesting record of facts, very copiously illustrated, and will supply materials to many future writers.

We take the following pertinent observations from the preface;—

"Unhappily, the Government has not yet been awakened to a sense of the importance of our national antiquities. It neither originates any scheme for their preservation, nor encourages the exertions of societies or individuals. It even defends its pertinacious apathy by asserting that the chartered Society of Antiquaries of London should, and may, do all that is required. If this argument had ever any reason or justice, it would be the more forcible and conclusive since the establishment of the Association has brought forward so many institutions having similar objects in view. But it was ever a poor excuse for indifference, and is now manifestly absurd. The income of these societies is exceedingly trifling in comparison with the claims upon it, and this income is becoming more and more inadequate as the exertions of the members increase, and as materials are collected and accumulated. And it must ever be borne in mind, that the science which these collections promote is one of the highest consideration that it might be made of great public utility and without which every system of education must be incomplete.

The Government of Great Britain, with resources beyond those of any other state in Europe, is behind all in the appreciation of its valuable national monuments, and in the encouragement of inquiries which have a direct tendency to advance the intellectual and moral condition of the people. Ever boasting of its institutions, and inculcating reverence and attachment to them, it neglects the preservation of those memorials the knowledge of which can alone give sound notions on the origin, progress, and value of national institutions, and beget, in the people at large, a capacity to appreciate the great social regulations and the political organizations under which they live and which they are daily expected to cherish and defend.

It has been the custom to ascribe to the ignorance of past ages the chief share in the destruction of our national works of ancient art, as if the present generation were the sole representative of all that is enlightened and conservative. This is an error both vulgar and common. If there be not at the present day the same amount of ignorance as to past times, there is an increased spirit of selfishness—a proneness to test the value of every thing by the scale of the trader—a dogged utilitarianism, to which has been sacrificed perhaps in the last fifty years more of our national ancient remains than in previous centuries not so distinguished for the progress of science and general knowledge. Public and private enterprise and speculation have within the last few years dissected the kingdom from one end to the other; and, in consequence (from the supineness of the Government), many a record of the olden times has been swept away, and the desecrated church, the ruined monastery, the baron's castle, as well as the less and more exposed, but not less valuable, monuments of earlier times, have been hurried to their doom of oblivion. Even the zeal of the archæological explorer has, in numerous instances, contributed to increase the amount of destruction; for it often happens he is obliged to abandon his researches at the very moment of their being crowned with success, forego his reward, and stop short in his discoveries, for the want of pecuniary resources. The Roman theatre at Verulam affords a case in point. It was one of the most interesting objects brought to light within the memory of man, and in this country was without parallel.† It was in good preservation; and at a comparatively insignificant cost might have been preserved to the country. But the people of the county cared not about it; the Government, petitioned through Lord John Russell, would hearken to no supplications on its behalf; the excavations were discontinued, and the remains of the theatre were destroyed. Had such a discovery been made in France, a different fate would have awaited a monument so curious and valuable. The disastrous result of the researches at Verulam shew that it would have been better had they not been undertaken, for at some future day they might have been prosecuted under circumstances more auspicious, either by the aid of liberal private patronage, or by the support of Parliament.

The establishment of archæological and antiquarian societies in almost every county, is, then, an additional reason for the expediency of some extensive parliamentary measure which would effectually embrace the various classes of our ancient national monuments, and secure their preservation. These societies, although frequently exhibiting a long array of names, are so poorly supported by subscriptions, that only a very few are able to publish their proceedings, and thus prove themselves to be in a state of healthy vitality. For the most part they are clogged and shackled with persons who yield neither pecuniary nor literary aid, but are pressed to consent to swell the list of names, from a prevalent but ridiculous notion that numbers alone can ensure permanent success, and supply that intelligence and earnestness of purpose which belong only to the few. In England, moreover, there is a strong tendency in literary and scientific societies to encumber the executive departments with persons selected solely for their eminent rank or position, but whose tastes and habits do not usually incline them to take the slightest interest in the objects of the institutions they ostensibly patronise and superintend. Where rank is allied with ability, or with generous feelings, it will naturally in all well regulated bodies take proper precedence; but where it represents nothing whatever beyond mere rank and station, it is beneath the dignity of men of science to waive their own honourable rights and privileges, and invest with the credit of the labours of others, persons who have no sympathies in common with them, and who must in their hearts, if they reflect, despise the adulation which, under the disguise of courtesy, prostitutes intellect to worldly power.

Nothing in fact, short of a parliamentary commission, can do justice to our national antiquities. It must be a commission responsible to Parliament and the public, and composed of men of character above suspicion, who will constitute a board to see that the funds granted by Parliament are properly expended; to call to their assistance persons of ability; and, as a first step, to obtain the *statistics* of the national antiquities yet remaining, and then to devise measures to place them beyond the reach of danger. It is not necessary that all the members of the commission should be antiquaries; but it is essential they should be men of general practical knowledge, of tried integrity, and of judgment, to be enabled to select fit and proper instruments to work with, and to prevent what, it must be owned, is to be apprehended and guarded against—the misapplication of the funds placed at their disposal.

Until the day shall arrive when the Government shall be awakened to a sense of the value of ancient national remains, societies and individuals must work on with zeal and earnestness; but they should never relax in forcing upon the attention and consideration of the representatives of the people, the conservation of the antiquities of the kingdom."

* Published by J. R. Smith, Old Compton-street, London.

† See "Journal of the British Archæological Association," vol. iii. and iv.; and "Description of the Roman Theatre of Verulam," by R. Grove Lowe, Esq. Pp. 14. 8vo. London and St. Alban's.

CHURCH CLERESTORIES AND EXTERNAL WALLS, UNDER LIVERPOOL BUILDINGS' ACT.

A case was tried at the Liverpool Police-court, on the 10th instant, in connection with St. Peter's Scotch Church, Great Oxford-street, which excited some interest in that town. An information was laid against the contractor for the masons' work, Mr. Paterson, by the building-surveyor of Liverpool, for erecting the clerestories in contravention of the Liverpool Buildings Act, 5 Vict. c. 44. We take the particulars from the *Mail*.

The real defendants were the trustees of the church; and the point in dispute was, whether the clerestories were *external walls* within the meaning of the 44th section of the Act, or merely *portions of the roof* of the church.

Mr. John Robinson, assistant building-surveyor, was called, and stated that the external walls of the church were not built according to the provisions of the Buildings Act, inasmuch as the clerestories were intended to be constructed of framed timber, boarded and slated.

In answer to questions, witness said that all the external walls, with the exception of the clerestories, were of greater thickness than required by the Act, and were also further strengthened by buttresses. He was asked whether the roofs of St. John's and St. James's Markets were not precisely on the same principle as the roof in the present case, when he said he did not know sufficient of these roofs to answer the question.

Mr. Rishton, the chief building surveyor, in answer to the court, admitted that the roofs of these markets were on the same principle as the one in question.

The witness Robinson was asked by the magistrates whether, in his opinion, the security and stability of the church would be endangered by the clerestories being constructed as proposed in the present case; and in reply stated that he thought the church would be *more* secure if they were built of brick or stone; but he was requested to answer, not remodel, the question, when he stated he did not think that either the security or stability of the church would be in danger by the proposed mode of construction.—A number of architects, surveyors, and builders were attending in court as witnesses for the defendant; but the magistrates, after the short examination of the assistant building surveyor, said the Act ought to receive a liberal construction, and decided, without calling on the defendant's witnesses, that there had been no infringement, and dismissed the case.—Defendant asked for his costs, on the ground of the very heavy expense he had been put to in preparing to defend the case. The court said they had not the power, or would have given them: the building surveyor had stated that he considered himself bound, in discharge of his public duty, to bring the case before the magistrates, and the court thought it would therefore only have been reasonable that the public, for whose benefit the case was brought forward, and not an individual, should be at the expense of trying the question, and regretted they had not the power of giving costs in the present case.

Cleansing Drains.—An apparatus has lately been patented, invented by Mr. R. G. Salter, surveyor, of Birkenhead, the object of which is to flush sewers, to carry off filth of every description, and also to purify the house and other drains. According to the *Liverpool Courier*, it can be applied to sewers already constructed with facility, at a cheap cost, and when so supplied, will keep them cleansed and ventilated.

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